

Message Text

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ACTION INR-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 EB-11 SAJ-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03 SCI-06

NIC-01 DRC-01 PM-07 /087 W
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R 071030Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5597

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY MUNICH

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR,UR,CZ

SUBJ: CZECHOSLOVAK ATTACK ON NEW SOLZHENITSYN BOOK

REF: STATE 1748

1. WITH SPECIAL SEGMENT ON JANUARY 4 TELEVISION EVENING NEWS AND FEATURE ARTICLE IN JANUARY 5 "RUDE PRAVO," CZECHOSLOVAK PRESS HAS JOINED ATTACK ON ALEKSANDR SOLZHENITSYN'S "GULAG ARCHIPELAGO." THRUST OF ATTACK IS ALLEGATION THAT BOOK IS ANTI-SOVIET EFFORT BEING DISTRIBUTED BY WORLDWIDE ANTI-COMMUNIST MOVEMENT; "PROOF" OF THIS ARGUMENT IS FOUND IN FACT THAT BOOK HAS RECEIVED ENTHUSIASTIC SUPPORT AND PUBLICITY IN BOURGEOIS, RIGHT-WING WESTERN PRESS (NEW YORK TIMES, INTERNATIONAL HERALDTRIBUNE, L'AUREOLE, LE MONDE, FIGARO, DAILY TELEGRAPH, RADIO SOUTH AFRICA, AND FRANCOIST DAILIES IN SPAIN).

2. TELEVISION COMMENTATOR CANDIDLY ADMITTED, "OF COURSE, WE ARE NOT FAMILIAR WITH SOLZHENITSYN'S WORK HERE IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA, "BUT WENT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ON TO SAY THAT SYMPATHETIC TREATMENT OF VLASOV IN "GULAG ARCHIPELAGO"

SUFFICED TO SHOW WHERE SOLZHENITSYN'S FEELINGS LIE.

3. "RUDE PRAVO" ARTICLE BY ZDENEK PORYBNY NOTED THAT PUBLICATION OF BOOK WOULD SERVE THE INTERESTS OF THOSE IN UNITED STATES WHO OPPOSE DETENTE WITH USSR, AND QUOTED VOICE OF AMERICA COMMENTARY ON BOOK AS ALLEGEDLY SAYING, "THE CONGRESS AND U.S. PUBLIC HAS BEEN EVER INCREASINGLY MANIFESTING A COOL ATTITUDE TOWARD THE IDEA OF ECONOMIC COOPERATION WITH THE SOVIET UNION...THE ISSUES WHICH THIS BOOK EVOKE IN AMERICAN MINDS ABOUT THE SOVIET SYSTEM AND POLICY IN GENERAL WILL HAVE A GREAT INFLUENCE ON THE OVERALL ATMOSPHERE OF THE US-USSR RELATIONSHIP."

4. WITHIN CZECHOSLOVAKIA, THE NET EFFECT OF THESE VIOLENT ATTACKS WILL BE TO BRING BOOK TO ATTENTION OF MANY WHO MIGHT NOT OTHERWISE HAVE BEEN FULLY AWARE OF IT AND TO AROUSE INTELLECTUAL CURIOSITY TO A DEGREE THAT WILL MAKE THOSE COPIES OF BOOK THAT FIND THEIR WAY INTO CZECHOSLOVAK HANDS VERY SOUGHT-AFTER ITEMS.
WORTZEL

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